



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Claims Life of Natalbany Woman

Cause of Fire Linked to Space Heater

Natalbany, LA – Investigators from the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office are stringing together the events leading to a fire that destroyed a Natalbany home this morning and claimed the life of a woman.

Shortly after 2:00 a.m., firefighters responded to a report of a residential fire at 46485 Durbin Road. Upon their arrival, firefighters were met by a Tangipahoa Sheriff's deputy who advised them that while four (4) occupants had managed to escape the blaze, one person was believed to be trapped inside.

After entering the structure, firefighters located and removed Yolanda Dyson, 39, who was found near a window in her bedroom. Despite the efforts of first responders and paramedics, Dyson was later pronounced dead at the scene. Two of the survivors were also treated for minor injuries.

Dyson shared the home on Durbin Road with her mother Brenda Kinchen. Kinchen's three (3) grandchildren, ages 15, 12, and 11, were also in the home at the time of the fire.

Investigators learned that the 15-year-old was asleep on a living room couch when she was awakened after experiencing an intense amount of heat to her feet. Sitting up, she observed flames emanating from the end of the couch where one of two space heaters in the home was located. The girl then began to yell out, alerting the other occupants of the home.

Investigators have attributed the cause of the fire to the electric space heater. While the home was equipped with smoke alarms, they were not functioning at the time of the fire.

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News Release – Addendum (Natalbany Fire; 2/6/15)



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office